

DESCRIPTION

Both the Old Salinas River Estuary and the Salinas River Lagoon have been impacted by nutrients, pesticides and sedimentation and are listed as impaired water bodies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Other listed water bodies are the Blanco Drain, Salinas River, Old Salinas River Channel, Espinosa Slough, Moro Cojo Slough and Tembladero Slough, due to the presence of organic pesticides in fish, shellfish and sediments, nutrient and sediment.

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) allows individual landowners along 93 miles of the Salinas River to push the sand bars and vegetation to the riverbanks with bulldozers. In 2001, approximately 15,000 cubic yards of material was dredged from the Old Salinas River Channel. Material that is removed from the channel was deposited back onto the adjacent farmland. The sediment is known to contain DDT. The MCWRA also dredges several creeks and lakes (some of which are farmed) in order to remove the build up of sediment. Much of the sediment is eroded from adjacent farmlands.

The Reclamation Ditch (which is historically the lower portion of Gabilan Creek) begins southeast of Salinas, flows through the city of Salinas, following a path northwest through agricultural fields, out towards Tembladero Slough. Tembladero Slough is currently listed as impaired by nutrients and pesticides. Levels of DDT in the sediment the Old Salinas River Channel exceed EPA standards and some of this sediment comes from the Reclamation Ditch.



Salinas River Estuary

(Photo courtesy Ross Clark).

For more photos, visit the California Coastal Records Project:
www.californiacoastline.org.

REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Old Salinas River is a 2002 303(d)-listed **impaired waterbody that flows into a Marine Protected Area** (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary).

POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)				Other Pollutant	
Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	<u>Fecal Coliform</u>	<u>Low Dissolved Oxygen</u>	<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Pesticides</u>	?	
Old Salinas River Estuary ▲	▲ Low	▲ Low	▲ Medium	▲ Medium		
Tembladero Slough ■	■ Low		■ Low	■ Medium		
Old Salinas River •						
Alisal Slough ♦						
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
Agriculture	■		▲ ■	▲ ■		e
➤ Crop Production			▲ ■	▲ ■		
➤ Agricultural Storm Runoff			■	▲ ■		
➤ Irrigation Tailwater			▲ ■	▲		
➤ Agricultural Return Flows			■	▲ ■		
➤ Pasture Grazing	■					
Forestry (Silviculture)						

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Potential sources of Pollutants, continued	<u>Fecal Coliform</u>	<u>Low Dissolved Oxygen</u>	<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Pesticides</u>	?	Efforts to Address Pollutants
Urban Areas						a, b, c, f
➤ Urban Runoff/ Storm Sewers	■					f
Marinas & Boating						
Hydromodification						d
Wetlands & Riparian Areas						a, c, d
Unspecified Nonpoint Source			▲ ■	▲ ■		a
Natural Sources	■					
Source Unknown	▲	▲				

MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

a) CcoWS (Central Coast Watershed Studies)	http://watershed.csumb.edu/index.html	
California State University Monterey Bay Watershed Institute	Wendi Newman Thor Anderson	(831) 582-4431 (831) 582-3684
➤ Direct action community-based coalition of researchers, restoration ecologist, educators, planners, students, and volunteers, who work to promote and employ a systems approach to management of watersheds around the world.		
b) Chualar Creek Pilot Project Water Quality Monitoring	http://science.csumb.edu/~ccows/2003/chualar/Chualar.htm	
Chualar Creek Watershed Working Group	Kelly Huff	(831) 477-0272
➤ This project was a pilot monitoring project - ahead of a more widespread current effort to provide water quality monitoring support to the Watershed Working Groups of California's Central Coast.		
c) Upper Salinas Watershed Coalition	http://www.us-ltrcd.com/	
	Donald (DJ) Funk	(805) 434-0396
➤ In collaboration with the Planning and Conservation League Foundation and the California Conservation Corps, implementing the Upper Salinas River Enhancement Project covering about 6 miles of the river and tributaries.		
d) Public Outreach & Education in Salinas Valley	http://www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us/	
Monterey County Water Resource Agency		(831) 755-4860
➤ Monterey County Water Resources Agency Manages, Protects, and Enhances the Quantity and Quality of Water and Provides Specified Flood Control Services for Present and Future Generations of Monterey County		
e) Agriculture Outreach, Education, and BMPs for the Upper Salinas River Watershed and Northern Central Coast Watersheds	http://us-ltrcd.org/projects.html	
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District	Donald (DJ) Funk	(805) 434-0396
➤ The USLT-RCD provides technical conservation assistance to other agencies and landowners		
f) Dry Weather Diversion; Tidal Circulation Feasibility Study; Source Abatement	http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/agendas/2002/april/0425-12.doc	
City of Pacific Grove (Clean Beaches Initiative grant 2001, 2003)	Steve Leiker	(831) 648.5722
➤ Divert urban runoff during dry weather from twelve storm drains to the sanitary sewer system, to reduce beach warnings due to high coliform levels from non-point sources; 2003 grant to expand project an additional 45 acres.		

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REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ City of Pacific Grove, Public Works Dept.	http://www.ci.pg.ca.us/	Steve Leiker	(831) 648-5722	sleiker@ci.pg.ca.us
➤ Monterey County Water Resources Agency	http://www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us/	Manuel Quezada	(831) 755-4874	quezadam@co.monterey.ca.us
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html	Ross Clark	(831) 427-4873	rclark@coastal.ca.gov
➤ Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/	Amanda Bern	(805) 594-6197	abern@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ State Water Resources Control Board	http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/	Steve Fagundes	(916) 341-5487	sfagundes@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/	Terri Nevins	(510) 286-4161	tnevins@scc.ca.gov
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/	Bill Paznokas	(858) 467-4218	wpaznokas@dfg.ca.gov
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Marine Region	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/	Kevin Urquhart	(831) 649-2882	kurquhart@dfg.ca.gov
➤ Calif. State Parks, Monterey District	http://www.parks.ca.gov/v/parkindex/region_info.asp?regiontab=0&id=6	Tom Moss	(831) 649-2854	tmoss@parks.ca.gov